

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ROME 13305 261951Z

62

ACTION SWF-02

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 AGR-20 RSC-01 AID-20 EB-11 EUR-25 COME-00

ISO-00 TRSE-00 AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11 NEA-14 L-03 CIAE-00

INR-11 NSAE-00 SS-20 NSC-07 DRC-01 /187 W

----- 029312

R 261842Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7149

INFO USMISSION USUN NY

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION OECD PARIS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 13305

FODAG

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAGR, FAO

SUBJECT: ESTABLISHMENT OF PREPCOM WORKING PARTY AND GROUP B POSITIONS

FOR WFC

REF: ROME 13209

1. MEETING EVENING OF 24TH, GROUP B REPS CONSIDERED HOW TO RESPOND TO G-77 PROPOSAL, MADE AT MEETING OF JOINT QUOTE CONTACT GROUP UNQUOTE EARLIER IN DAY, FOR ESTABLISHING WORKING PARTY WITH BROAD AND SPECIFIC TERMS OF REFERENCE. GROUP B QUICKLY REAFFIRMED EARLIER CONSENSUS THAT WORKING PARTY COULD USEFULLY BE ESTABLISHED IMMEDIATELY TO DEVELOP RECOMMENDATIONS OF FORM IN WHICH RESULTS OF WFC SHOULD BE EXPRESSED, E.G., RESOLUTIONS, DECLARATION, REPORT, ETC. BUT GROUP WAS UNWILLING TO TURN OVER TO WORKING PARTY AT THIS EARLY STAGE CONSIDERATION OF SUBSTANTIVE QUESTIONS OF WFC FOLLOW-UP ARRANGEMENTS AND CONTENT OF EXPRESSION OF RESULTS.

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PAGE 02 ROME 13305 261951Z

2. DIVERGENCE DEVELOPED WITHIN GROUP B OVER HOW FAR TO

GO IN ACCOMMODATING G-77, WHICH HAD HAD CONSIDERABLE DIFFICULTY IN FORMULATING POSITION SUBMERGING PERUVIAN DRAFT DECLARATION ON ERADICATION OF HUNGER--WHICH HAS PLAGUED MEETING SINCE LAST WEEK. SOME, INCLUDING US, WANTED TO ACCEPT G-77 TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR WORKING PARTY, WITH UNDERSTANDING THAT FIRST CONSIDERATION WOULD BE GIVEN TO FORM OF FINAL DOCUMENT AND TO SUBSTANTIVE QUESTIONS AS NECESSARY ONLY AFTER DISCUSSION IN PREPCOM PLENARY HAD CLARIFIED VIEWS. OTHERS, LED BY FRANCE, CANADA AND UK, CONSIDERED THAT ATTEMPT WOULD BE MADE TO NEGOTIATE FURTHER WITH G-77 TO LIMIT TERMS OF REFERENCE TO QUESTION OF FORM ONLY. DESPITE APPEAL BY GROUP B CHAIRMAN (AUSTRALIA) THAT LATTER POSITION HAD ALREADY BEEN REJECTED BY G-77 AT CONTACT GROUP MEETING AND THAT REPETITION LIKELY TO BE TAKEN AS REFUSAL TO TALK IN INFORMAL ATMOSPHERE WITH DANGER THIS MIGHT POLARIZE PREPCOM SESSION, CAUTIOUS APPROACH PREVAILED. AUSTRALIANS DELEGATE MET WITH G-77 COUNTERPART MORNING OF 25TH. GROUP B POSITION REJECTED WITHOUT CONTACT GROUP MEETING, ALTHOUGH G-77 REPS MADE CLEAR ACCEPTABILITY OF TERMS OF REFERENCE THAT WOULD MAKE DISCUSSION OF SUBSTANTIVE ITEMS IN WORKING PARTY CONTINGENT UPON PRIOR DISCUSSION IN PLENARY AND MUTUAL AGREEMENT ON TIMING.

3. FACED WITH CHOICE BETWEEN ACCOMMODATING G-77 OR LENGTHY AND UNPROFITABLE DEBATE IN PLENARY, GROUP B MET AGAIN EVENING OF 25TH AND AGREED TO FORMATION OF WORKING PARTY. CANADA, GERMANY AND, TO LESSER EXTENT, FRANCE AND UK CONCURRED RELUCTANTLY AND ONLY AFTER RECONSIDERING THEIR POSITIONS IN LIGHT OF VERY LIMITED TIME LIKELY TO BE AVAILABLE TO WORKING PARTY FOR SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSION. AGREEMENT ALREADY HAD BEEN REACHED ON APPLYING UNCTAD 6-3-1 REPRESENTATION FORMULA. US INCLUDED FOR GROUP B.

4. GROUP B ALSO ADOPTED POSITION ON WFC OFFICERS. AGREED THAT: A) ITALY, AS HOST, SHOULD CHAIR PLENARY; B) LARGE NUMBER (UP TO 31) VICE CHAIRMEN WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE; AND C) GROUP B SHOULD AIM TO SECURE THREE OF EIGHT WFC CHAIRMEN AND RAPPOORTEURS (PLENARY PLUS THREE COMMITTEES). IN ADDITION TO PLENARY CHAIRMEN, GROUP WILL SEEK TO CHAIR COMMITTEE TWO (FOOD SECURITY) AND SUPPLY RAPPOORTEUR FOR COMMITTEE ONE (NUTRITION, PRODUCTION, ETC.). REALIZING THIS DIVISION
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PAGE 03 ROME 13305 261951Z

LIKELY TO BE OPPOSED BY BOTH G-77 AND SOCIALIST GROUP, GROUP B PREPARED TO FALL BACK TO ACCEPTING RAPPOORTEUR POSITIONS FOR THESE TWO COMMITTEES.

5. FIRST WORKING PARTY SESSION AS WELL AS ANOTHER GROUP B MEETING SCHEDULED FOR AFTERNOON 26TH. BEAUDRY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AGRICULTURE, COMMITTEES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 SEP 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974ROME13305
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740272-0448
From: ROME
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740911/aaaaajds.tel
Line Count: 113
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SWF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: ROME 13209
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10 APR 2002 by cunninfx>; APPROVED <10 JUL 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ESTABLISHMENT OF PREPCOM WORKING PARTY AND GROUP B POSITIONS FOR WFC
TAGS: EAGR, FAO, WFC
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005